What is Claimed:

1   1. A method of preventing a flooding attack on a network

2   server in which a large number of requests are received for

3   connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

4   determining, in response to a request from a host for a

5   connection to a port number on the server, if the number of

6   connections to the port assigned to the host exceeds a

7   prescribed threshold, and, if so,

8   denying the request for a connection.

2. The method of claim 1 in which denying the request

further comprises:

3   overriding the denial and allowing the request if a

4   quality of service parameter pertaining to the requesting

5   host permits the override.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein a connection request is

2   denied in any event if the number of available connections

3   to the port are less than a constrained threshold.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 or claim 2 or claim 3 further

2   comprising:

3 calculating the prescribed threshold by multiplying a
4 percentage P by the number of available connections
5 remaining for the port.

1 5. Apparatus for preventing a flooding attack on a network
2 server in which a large number of requests are received for
3 connection to a port number on the server, comprising:

4 means for determining, in response to a request from a
5 host for a connection to a port number on the server, if the
6 number of connections to the port assigned to the host
7 exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

8 means responsive to the determining means for denying
9 the request for a connection.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 in which means for denying
further comprises:

3 means responsive to a quality of service parameter
4 pertaining to the requesting host for overriding a request
5 denial and allowing the request.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

2 means for denying a connection request in any event if
3 the number of available connections to the port are less

4 than a constrained threshold.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 5 or claim 6 or claim 7 further

2 comprising:

3 means for calculating the prescribed threshold by

4 multiplying a percentage P by the number of available

5 connections remaining for the port.

1 9. A storage media containing program code segments for

2 preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a

3 large number of requests are received for connection to a

4 port number on the server, comprising:

5 a first code segment activated in response to a request

6 from a host for a connection to a port number on the server

7 for determining if the number of connections to the port

8 assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

9 a second code segment responsive to the first code

10 segment for denying the request for a connection.

1 10. The media of claim 9 in which the second code segment

2 further comprises:

3 a third code segment for overriding the denial and

4 allowing the request if a quality of service parameter

5   pertaining to the requesting host permits the override.

1   11. The media of claim 10 further comprising a fourth code

2   segment for denying a connection request in any event if the

3   number of available connections to the port are less than a

4   constrained threshold.

1   12 . The media of claim 9 or claim 10 or claim 11 further

2   comprising:

3   a fifth code segment for calculating the prescribed

4   threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of

5   available connections remaining for the port.

1   13. A carrier wave containing program code segments for

2   preventing a flooding attack on a network server in which a

3   large number of requests are received for connection to a

4   port number on the server, comprising:

5   a first code segment activated in response to a request

6   from a host for a connection to a port number on the server

7   for determining if the number of connections to the port

8   assigned to the host exceeds a prescribed threshold, and

9   a second code segment responsive to the first code

10   segment for denying the request for a connection.

1   14. The carrier wave of claim 13 in which the second code
2   segment further comprises:

3   a third code segment for overriding the denial and
4   allowing the request if a quality of service parameter
5   pertaining to the requesting host permits the override.

1   15. The carrier wave of claim 14 further comprising a
2   fourth code segment for denying a connection request in any
3   event if the number of available connections to the port are
4   less than a constrained threshold.

    16. The carrier wave of claim 13 or claim 14 or claim 15
    further comprising:

        a fifth code segment for calculating the prescribed
    threshold by multiplying a percentage P by the number of
    available connections remaining for the port.